

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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**Further information on UA 225/93 (AFR 44/06/93, 9 July 1993) - and follow-up:
AFR 44/08/93, 26 July 1993 - Legal Concern**

**NIGERIA: Beko Ransome-Kuti, 52, doctor, Chairman of the Campaign for Democracy,
President of the Committee for the Defence of Human Rights
Femi Falana, lawyer, member of the Campaign for Democracy, President of the
National Association of Democratic Lawyers (NADL)
Chief Gani Fawehinmi, 55, human rights lawyer, member of the Campaign for
Democracy
Alhaji Lamidi Adedibu, member of the Social Democratic Party
(SDP)**

Beko Ransome-Kuti, Femi Falana and Chief Gani Fawehinmi, all human rights activists and leading members of the Campaign for Democracy, remain imprisoned in Kuje prison in the federal capital, Abuja, despite a court ruling that they should be released on bail. The three were charged on 12 July 1993 with sedition and conspiracy. Bail was initially refused and they were remanded in custody until 30 September. On 28 July bail was granted and the conditions met, but they are now being held under the provisions of the State Security (Detention of Persons) Decree No.2 of 1984. This permits administrative detention for renewable periods of six weeks thus effectively providing for indefinite detention without charge or trial of anyone suspected of threatening national security. They have no recourse to a court to challenge their continuing detention. Amnesty International considers Beko Ransome Kuti, Femi Falana and Chief Gani Fawehinmi to be prisoners of conscience, detained for their peaceful activities to promote democracy and human rights.

Alhaji Lamidi Adedibu is also believed to be still detained in Abuja without charge or trial. A prominent member of the Social Democratic Party, he was arrested on 20 July after calling for a boycott of new presidential elections ordered by General Ibrahim Babangida for 14 August. Amnesty International believes that he, too, is a prisoner of conscience.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Dr Beko Ransome-Kuti, Femi Falana and Chief Gani Fawehinmi were arrested in early July after the Campaign for Democracy called protests against the government's decision on 23 June 1993 to withhold the results of the presidential election on 12 June 1993, claiming that there were malpractices during the election. International observers, however, judged that the election had largely been fair. Two candidates, representing parties established by the military government of President Babangida, contested the election. Although the results were not officially announced, it was clear that Chief Moshood Abiola of the Social Democratic Party (SDP) had been successful. The government also repealed legislation allowing for transition to civilian rule. Attempts

by Chief Moshood Abiola and also elected SDP state governors to get the courts to overturn the annulment of the results of the 12 June election were thwarted by a decree issued by the government on 19 July 1993 which banned the courts from considering any case relating to the presidential election. President Babangida has maintained, however, that he will still hand over power to a civilian government on 27 August 1993. Although new elections were initially planned for 14 August, these were subsequently abandoned and

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President Babangida announced on 31 July that an unelected interim government would be installed; its powers, however, would be limited. This is widely interpreted as an attempt by President Babangida to retain power beyond 27 August.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters either in English or your own language:

- protesting against the continued detention of Beko Ransome-Kuti, Femi Falana and Chief Gani Fawehinmi despite a court ruling authorising their release on bail;
- expressing concern that they are held under Decree 2 which denies their fundamental human rights, in particular, their right to challenge their detention in a court of law;
- expressing opposition to their indefinite imprisonment without charge or trial and the existence of legislation which allows such indefinite imprisonment;
- urging that they, and Alhaji Lamidi Adedibu, be immediately and unconditionally released as prisoners of conscience.

APPEALS TO:

1) General Ibrahim Babangida
President and Chairman of the National
Defence and Security Council
State House
Abuja
Federal Capital Territory
Nigeria

Telegrams: President Babangida, Abuja, Nigeria

Telexes: [0905] 91529 or 91530 EXTNAL NG (via Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Salutation: Dear President

2) Mr Clement Akpamgbo
Attorney General of the Federation,
Minister of Justice and member of the
National Defence and Security Council
Ministry of Justice
Abuja
Federal Capital Territory
Nigeria

Telegrams: Attorney General Akpamgbo, Abuja, Nigeria

Telexes: [0905] 91529 or 91530 EXTNAL NG (via Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

Chief Matthew Mbu

Minister of Foreign Affairs and member of
the National Defence and Security Council
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Maputo Street
Abuja
Federal Capital Territory
Nigeria

Daily Times, PMB 21340, Ikeja, Lagos, Nigeria
National Concord, POB 4483, Ikeja, Lagos, Nigeria
The Guardian, PMB 1217, Oshodi, Lagos, Nigeria
Newswatch, PMB 21499, Ikeja, Lagos, Nigeria

and to diplomatic representatives of Nigeria accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat,
or your section office, if sending appeals after 16 September 1993.